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NEW DELHI, Aug. 14 (Xinhua) -- India has regretted a decision by the **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** to put it on a list of states which failed to protect religious minorities.

"India, a country of 1.1 billion people, is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Aberrations, if any, are dealt with promptly within our legal framework, under the watchful eye of an independent judiciary and a vigilant media. The reported move referred to in the news reports is regrettable," India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Vishnu Prakash told the media Thursday.

The **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** said Wednesday that India earned the "watch list" designation due to the "disturbing increase" in communal violence against religious minorities -- specifically Christians in Orissa in 2008 and Muslims in Gujarat in 2002 as well as the largely inadequate response from the Indian government to protect the rights of religious minorities.